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Standard Practice for Installation of Exterior Windows, Doors and Skylights[1]

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INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to provide technical guidance to organizations that are developing training programs for installers of fenestration units in low-rise residential and light commercial structures. The majority of fenestration units selected for installation in these types of structures are certified as meeting specified performance characteristics in standardized laboratory testing. Experience indicates, however, that the performance of fenestration installations is frequently significantly inferior to the performance of the manufactured units in laboratory testing. Installation of fenestration units can significantly influence in-service performance.

The requirements promulgated in this practice have, by consensus, (of individuals with specialized knowledge concerning installation of fenestration units) been identified as necessary to ensure that as-installed performance is roughly equivalent to performance in laboratory testing. The task group responsible for development of this practice recognizes that building owners sometimes, accept as adequate, in-service performance of fenestration installations that are significantly inferior those of the units in laboratory testing. This practice is not intended for use in such circumstances, where owner expectations are modest. The intent of this practice is to provide guidance to those concerned with ensuring that as-installed performance is comparable to the capabilities of the units installed for a solid majority of installations.

A particularly noticeable behavior that indicates deficiencies in installation is rainwater leakage. Rainwater leakage has been the leading reason for dissatisfaction of building owners with performance of fenestration installations. For this reason, this practice places greater emphasis on preventing or limiting rainwater leakage than on any other single performance characteristic.

This practice emphasizes that the water-shedding surfaces of fenestration units must be adequately integrated with adjacent water-shedding surfaces of the building envelope. It does not, however, attempt to promulgate requirements for water-shedding surfaces of building envelopes other than those interfacing with fenestration units. The standard assumes that the basic design of the building's water-shedding system is adequate, that is, that either (*1*) there is a high probability that the outermost building surface will dependably prevent all water entry, or (*2*) the building envelope incorporates an effective concealed barrier that will dependably prevent further intrusion of incidental water that breaches the outermost surface. The practice further assumes that fenestration units can be dependably sealed to, and integrated with, at least one of these surfaces. If the basic design of the building's water-shedding system is inadequate, or does not allow for reliable integration of fenestration units into it, competent installation of the units is unlikely to nullify these deficiencies.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the installation of fenestration products in new and existing construction. For the purpose of this practice, fenestration products shall be limited to windows, sliding patio-type doors, swinging patio type doors, and skylights, as used primarily in residential and light commercial buildings.

1.2 This practice assumes that the installer possesses basic woodworking skills and an understanding of wall and roof construction, sheet metal work, and joint sealant practices.

1.3 This practice attempts to instruct and familiarize the installer with the concepts of both Barrier Systems and Membrane/Drainage Systems, in order to ensure the continuity

[1] This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E06 on Building Constructions and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E06.51 on Performance of Windows, Doors, Skylights and Curtain Walls.

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